

Chapter 51-54A WAC
STATE BUILDING CODE ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF THE ((2018)) 2021
EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE

WAC 51-54A-0403 Emergency preparedness requirements. ~~403.3.1~~

~~**Fire evacuation plan.** The fire safety and evacuation plan required by Section 404 shall include a description of special staff actions. This shall include a description for stabilizing patients in a staged evacuation or full evacuation in conjunction with the entire building, if part of a multitenant facility.~~

Language in 2021 IBC

403.3.1 Ambulatory care facilities. Ambulatory care facilities shall comply with the requirements of Sections 401, 403.3.1.1 through 403.3.1.2 and 404 through 406.

403.3.1.1 Fire safety and evacuation plan. The fire safety and evacuation plan required by Section 404 shall include a description of special staff actions. This shall include procedures for stabilizing care recipients in a defend-in-place response, staged evacuation, or full evacuation in conjunction with the entire building if part of a multitenant facility.

403.3.1.1.1 Fire safety plan. A copy of the fire safety plan shall be maintained at the facility at all times. The plan shall include all of the following in

addition to the requirements of Section 404:

1. Locations of care recipients who are rendered incapable of self-preservation.
2. Maximum number of care recipients rendered incapable of self-preservation.
3. Area and extent of each ambulatory care facility.
4. Location of any special locking arrangements.

WAC 51-54A-0903 Automatic sprinkler systems. 903.2 Where required. Approved automatic sprinkler systems in new buildings and structures shall be provided in the locations described in Sections 903.2.1 through 903.2.12.

EXCEPTIONS:

1. Spaces or areas in telecommunications buildings used exclusively for telecommunications equipment, associated electrical power distribution equipment, batteries and standby engines, provided that those spaces or areas are equipped throughout with an automatic smoke detection system in accordance with Section 907.2 and are separated from the remainder of the building by not less than 1-hour fire

barriers constructed in accordance with Section 707 of the International Building Code or not less than 2-hour horizontal assemblies constructed in accordance with Section 711 of the International Building Code, or both.

2. Bottom of the elevator hoistway in an enclosed and noncombustible elevator shaft.

WAC 51-54A-0918 Reserved ~~Alerting systems.~~ ~~918.1 General.~~ An approved alerting system shall be provided in buildings and structures as required in Chapter 4 and this section, unless other requirements are provided by another section of this code.

EXCEPTION: Approved alerting systems in existing buildings, structures or occupancies.

~~918.2 Power source.~~ Alerting systems shall be provided with power supplies in accordance with Section ((4.4.1)) 10.6 of NFPA 72 and circuit disconnecting means identified as "EMERGENCY ALERTING SYSTEM."

EXCEPTION: Systems which do not require electrical power to operate.

~~918.3 Duration of operation.~~ The alerting system shall be capable of operating under nonalarm condition (quiescent load) for a minimum of 24 hours and then shall be capable of operating during an emergency condition for a period of 15 minutes at maximum connected load.

~~**918.4 Combination system.** Alerting system components and equipment shall be allowed to be used for other purposes.~~

~~**918.4.1 System priority.** The alerting system use shall take precedence over any other use.~~

~~**918.4.2 Fire alarm system.** Fire alarm systems sharing components and equipment with alerting systems must be in accordance with Section ((6.8.4)) 23.8.4 of NFPA 72.~~

~~**918.4.2.1 Signal priority.** Recorded or live alert signals generated by an alerting system that shares components with a fire alarm system shall, when actuated, take priority over fire alarm messages and signals.~~

~~**918.4.2.2 Temporary deactivation.** Should the fire alarm system be in the alarm mode when such an alerting system is actuated, it shall temporarily cause deactivation of all fire alarm-initiated audible messages or signals during the time period required to transmit the alert signal.~~

~~**918.4.2.3 Supervisory signal.** Deactivation of fire alarm audible and visual notification signals shall cause a supervisory signal for each notification zone affected in the fire alarm system.~~

~~918.5 Audibility.~~ Audible characteristics of the alert signal

~~shall be in accordance with Section ((7.4.1)) 18.4.1 of NFPA 72 throughout the area served by the alerting system.~~

EXCEPTION: Areas served by approved visual or textual notification, where the visible notification appliances are not also used as a fire alarm signal ~~(, are not required to be provided with audibility complying with Section 916.6)~~.

~~918.6 Visibility.~~ Visible and textual notification appliances shall be permitted in addition to alert signal audibility.

~~[Statutory Authority: RCW 19.27.031 and 19.27.074. WSR 20-01-162, § 51-54A-0918, filed 12/18/19, effective 7/1/20.]~~

WAC 51-54A-1014 Section 1014— Handrails. 1014.2 Height and

location. Handrails serving flights of stairways, ramps, stepped aisles, and ramped aisles shall comply with the provisions of Sections 1014.2.1 and 1014.2.2.

1014.2.1 Height. *Handrail* height, measured above stair tread nosings, or finish surface of ramp slope, shall be uniform, not less than 34 inches (864 mm) and not more than 38 inches (965 mm). Handrail height of alternating tread devices and ships ladders, measured above tread nosings, shall be uniform, not less than 30 inches (762 mm) and not more than 34 inches (864 mm).

EXCEPTIONS: 1. Where *handrail* fittings or bendings are used to provide continuous transition between flights, the fittings or bendings shall be permitted to exceed the maximum height.
2. In Group R-3 occupancies; within *dwelling units* in Group R-2 occupancies; and in Group U occupancies that are associated with a Group R-3 occupancy or associated with individual *dwelling units* in Group R-2 occupancies; where *handrail* fittings or bendings are used to provide continuous transition between flights, transition at *winder* treads, transition from *handrail* to guard, or where used at the start of a *flight*, the *handrail* height at the fittings or bendings shall be permitted to exceed the maximum height.

1014.2.2 Lateral location. Handrails located outward from the edge of the walking surface of flights of stairways, ramps, stepped aisles, and ramped aisles shall be located within 6 inches (152.4 mm) measured horizontally from the edge of the walking surface. Handrails projecting into the width of the walking surface shall comply with Section 1014.8.